



IOWA RECOVERY TIMES

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www.rio.iowa.gov

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SECRETARY NAPOLITANO ANNOUNCES \$5.8 MILLION IN COMMUNITY DISASTER LOANS

Just three weeks after being sworn into office, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano arrived in eastern Iowa to announce \$5.8 million in Community Disaster Loans (CDL) for five cities affected by the floods and tornadoes of 2008, including the maximum \$5 million loan amount for Cedar Rapids.

The five Iowa cities approved for Community Disaster Loans are Cedar Rapids (\$5 million), New Hartford (\$118,811),



Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano speaks in Cedar Rapids

Oakville (\$51,588), Palo (\$304,722) and Parkersburg (\$385,295).

“Community Disaster Loans provide much-needed funding to

(Continued on page 3)

REBUILD IOWA OFFICE OPENS SATELLITE LOCATION IN CEDAR RAPIDS



Cedar Rapids Mayor Kay Halloran, RIO Cedar Rapids Liaison Ann Poe, and Governor Culver formally open the RIO Cedar Rapids office on Feb. 5.

The Rebuild Iowa Office opened its new satellite location in Cedar Rapids on Thursday, Feb. 5. The Cedar Rapids RIO office, located in the Community Recovery Center, 220 Sixth St. NW in Cedar Rapids, already houses Linn Area Recovery Coalition case workers who assist Iowans impacted by the floods and storms of 2008.

“This location offers the perfect opportunity to share

(Continued on page 2)

UNEMPLOYED IOWANS FIND DISASTER RECOVERY WORK WITH EMERGENCY PUBLIC JOBS

Cleaning up after a disaster can be a daunting task, especially when it comes to local public and non-profit sites. Fortunately, these entities have a partner in their recovery: the Emergency Public Jobs program.

The Emergency Public Jobs program (EPJ) works through a \$17.1 million federal grant designed to put Iowans who have lost their job due to the tornadoes or floods back to work. These temporary jobs assist in disaster clean-up and restoration efforts. EPJ employees work in such varied activities as mucking out flooded buildings, rehabbing nature trails and parks and providing office assistance to recovery organizations. Former projects included providing food, clothing, shelter and other humanitarian assistance for disaster victims. Public and private agencies and organizations engaged in such projects can apply to the Iowa Workforce Development who will supply the employees at no charge to the organization.

Individual's eligible for employment with the EPJ program are:

- Workers who have been temporarily or permanently dislocated as a result of the disaster
- Eligible dislocated workers who



The Emergency Public Jobs program works to clean-up and restore public and non-profit projects (such as a nature trail) following a disaster by utilizing a local workforce.

are unemployed as defined by the Workforce Investment Act

- Individuals who are long-term unemployed

Priority to participate in the grant is given to those workers who have experienced temporary or permanent job loss as a result of the disaster.

Individuals may work up to 1,040 hours (about six months). Wages will be paid at the prevailing wage of the

worksite. Tools and training are provided by the program.

Eligible worksites must be located in the geographic area covered by a FEMA declaration eligible for public assistance.

For more information including Iowa's EPJ regional contacts, visit the Rebuild Iowa Office's Web site at www.rio.iowa.gov.

Satellite Office (from page 1)

space and partner with a group of individuals also working on disaster recovery efforts," said Tina Potthoff, Communications Director for the Rebuild Iowa Office. "Having our Rebuild Iowa Office Cedar Rapids liaison just a few steps away from

disaster recovery case advocates ensures a coordinated approach which benefits us all."

Governor Culver, elected officials, community members and the media were on hand to commend the work of the Linn Area Recovery Coalition

and to recognize the formal establishment of the Rebuild Iowa Office's Cedar Rapids location.

The satellite location also allows other RIO community liaisons a location to meet and hold meetings in the Cedar Rapids area.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CONTRACTORS AVAILABLE NOW

Officials with the Iowa Department of Economic Development have implemented a scholarship program to train Iowa contractors in lead detection, assessment and abatement.

Iowa was already experiencing a shortage of workers to do lead sampling, inspection and risk assessment, as well as abatement before the storms and floods of 2008 made the shortage even more apparent, officials said.

Lead-trained workers are particularly in need so Iowans whose homes sustained damage are able to have their homes inspected, assessed and abated for lead paint content. Such an assessment and abatement, if necessary, is required for disaster-affected residents to receive federal assistance.

The courses for which the scholarship program will reimburse contractors, along with the hours involved in taking the courses are:

- Sampling technician (20 hours)
- Lead-based Paint Inspector/Risk Assessor (40 hours)
- Abatement Contractor (40 hours)

- Abatement Worker (24 hours)
- Refresher Courses for the above work (hours vary)
- Lead-Safe Work Practices (8 hours)

Participants will need to pay for the training and then submit paperwork to the Iowa Department of Economic Development for reimbursement.

Upon successful course completion, reimbursement is available also for lodging, meals and travel to the training site. Once certification is complete, the contractor must agree to make their services available for Iowa's disaster recovery.

Information on training dates and locations (restricted to Iowa sites) can be found by going to the Iowa Department of Public Health web site at www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/certified_lead_prof.asp.

Anyone with questions about the program may e-mail them to the Department of Economic Development at cali.beals@iowalifechanging.com or call (515) 242-4822.

Napolitano (continued from page 1)

communities to help maintain essential services – like fire and police departments, school boards and district court offices – in the aftermath of a disaster,” said Secretary Napolitano. “With these disbursements, we are helping ensure the recovery process continues in these Iowa communities. FEMA will continue to collaborate with our state and local partners throughout the area to speed the loan application process and get money into the hands of those that need it.”

Loans can be made to local governments in need of financial assistance to perform

essential services. CDL applicants may include fire and police departments that provide critical community services during and in the immediate aftermath of disasters, as well as school boards, district court offices and local governments.

Along with this announcement, Napolitano stressed that recovering Iowans will not be forgotten. The Feb. 11 visit to Cedar Rapids and Iowa City allowed Secretary Napolitano to speak candidly with first responders and tour the Hancher/Voxman complex, one of the state’s larger Public Assistance projects at the University of Iowa.

Facts:

Nearly 40,000 Iowans registered for disaster assistance.

85 of Iowa's 99 counties were presidentially-declared disaster counties.

The Rebuild Iowa Office



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REBUILD IOWA OFFICE SERVICES

Since the Rebuild Iowa Office's creation on June 27, 2008, it has been focused on the response to and recovery from the devastating storms, floods, and tornadoes of 2008. To help the state work towards a full recovery, the Rebuild Iowa Office is engaged in many diverse activities.

RIO's Community and Regional Recovery Planning team (CaRRP) has been working with some of the hardest hit disaster-affected communities across Iowa to help each individual community develop its own unique recovery and rebuilding plan. CaRRP is also working to extend their expertise to other communities impacted by last summer's disasters.

RIO's Disaster Recovery Case Management Coordination team has been working with voluntary agencies and faith-based groups active in helping Iowa communities recover from the disasters. Their work with more than 20 local Long-Term Recovery Committees across the state helps to place Iowans struggling to recover in contact with case workers who will help them navigate the steps to a successful recovery.

The RIO Communications team keeps Iowans informed of the latest disaster recovery information and programs by the following:

- Working with media outlets across the state to ensure an accurate

message reaches impacted Iowans.

- Managing the RIO Web site which houses a wealth of information for those interested in Iowa's recovery process.
 - Facilitating discussion between agencies involved in the recovery efforts to encourage cooperation and communication toward a holistic approach to recovery.
 - Handling disaster- and recovery-related calls, e-mails and other inquiries from the public.

The RIO also staffs specialists focusing on economic, environmental, housing and infrastructure recovery issues.

Clip & Save...

Federal Agencies

General FEMA Information	800.621.FEMA (3362)
TTY for hearing/speech impaired	800.462.7585
FEMA Fraud Detection	800.323.8603
National Flood Insurance Program	800.427.4661
TTY for hearing/speech impaired	800.427.5593
Social Security Administration	800.772.1213
U.S. Small Business Administration	800.659.2955
Internal Revenue Service	800.829.1040
TTY for hearing/speech impaired	800.829.4059
Tax-Related Disaster Relief	866.562.5227
Housing & Urban Development Hotline	800.669.9777
Department of Veterans Affairs	800.827.0648

Iowa Contacts

For up-to-date disaster and recovery information visit the Rebuild Iowa Office Web site at www.rio.iowa.gov .	
To volunteer or make donations, contact:	
Iowa Concern Hotline	800.447.1985
If you have questions about consumer fraud, contact:	
Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division	
888.777.4590 or 515.281.5926 or	
www.state.ia.us/government/ag	
Disaster Unemployment Information	800.JOB.IOWA
Iowa Mortgage Help	877.622.4866 or www.IowaMortgageHelp.com
Rebuild Iowa Office	866.849.0323
Iowa Other Needs Assistance	800.659.2955
Other Needs Assistance	866.434.4692